

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 356  
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8  
Verses: Acts 3:1-10  
Topic: Command Prayer  
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Acts 3:1-10 KJV Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, [being] the ninth [hour]. (2) And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; (3) Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. (4) And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. (5) And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. (6) Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. (7) And he took him by the right hand, and lifted [him] up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. (8) And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. (9) And all the people saw him walking and praising God: (10) And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

There is much in this passage and we might spend a few days on it. We see how Christ overcomes “fate” and inherited effects, how weakness can be made strong, how those who beg can be made to rise up and walk – and so forth. But today I want to focus on just one often-neglected aspect – the way Peter and John performed the miracle and the kind of prayer that they used.

In the New Testament demons, death and diseases are all dealt with via “command prayers”. Jesus does not pray “please God cast out this demon” or “if it be Thy will please heal this man” rather He commands the demon to go or says “be healed” or “Lazarus come forth” and with the command comes the miracle. And since He gave this authority to His disciples (see Luke 10) they were able to issue similar commands and cast out demons, heal the sick and raise the dead.

We can understand this happening while Jesus was walking around, but we tend to doubt that it can happen after that. But it did! Here in Acts 3 is the archetypical New Testament miracle being performed by Peter and John – and it is also a command prayer: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

In fact the vast majority (if not all) of the NT miracles are performed via command prayers.

Command prayers show we have faith in the fact that Christ has delegated His authority to us, and faith in His dwelling within us in power. It is certainly NOT faith in our own strength.

The lame man was not expecting to be healed or even asking to be healed. Initially he had no personal faith for healing at all. His faith seems to have operated in a moment, and combined with the power and authority of the command of the apostles, which was issued in the name of Jesus. The power of the name of Jesus becomes the issue in chapters 3 and 4 of Acts.

Acts 3:12-16 GNB When Peter saw the people, he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, why are you surprised at this, and why do you stare at us? Do you think that it was by means of our own power or godliness that we made this man walk... (16) It was the power of his name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see and know was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see.

Peter explicitly denies any special power or piety of his own. The healing ingredients here are: the command prayer, the power of the name of Jesus and having personal faith in the power of that Name.

Think of someone who is suddenly made a General by a King. Suppose that person issues no commands? Suppose he meekly begs the King to make the troops do this or that? Would this person remain a General for long? Certainly not! We have been seated with Christ in the heavenly realms and given power and authority in Jesus name over certain things and we are expected to exercise that authority.

For things that are in the "lower realms" beneath where we are placed in the Heavenly realms – we are to use commands. For demons, death and disease, we can issue orders in Jesus name. When it comes to high and holy spiritual matters such as the health of the Church then we must bow our knees before the Father in prayer and supplication. (Ephesians 3:14)

On a practical level, command prayers work and I saw no healing at all until I started using them. They are absolutely essential when dealing with the demonic.

Learning to pray command prayers is quite difficult and they may seem strange at first. They are probably best learned in a small group setting.

Mountain-moving faith involves commanding difficult situations:

Matthew 17:20 MKJV And Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief. For truly I say to you, If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you shall SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, Move from here to there. And it shall move. And nothing shall be impossible to you.

With command prayer and mustard-seed faith in the power of the name of Jesus results will be obtained: "And it shall move. And nothing shall be impossible to you."

Thus command prayer is part of the secret of the power of the apostolic age.

Blessings,

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